

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen welcome Security Council's decision Saturday night to impose stronger sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) unless Bosnian Serbs sign peace plan and end hostilities in eastern Bosnia; meanwhile, Council begins two-day open debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- + Secretary-General seriously concerned about Haitian military's negative response to Special Envoy's peace plan; rejects dilatory tactics in search for political solution to crisis.
- + In Rome, Secretary-General discusses South African situation with Inkatha leader Chief Buthelezi; appeals once more for meeting between Chief Buthelezi and ANC leader Nelson Mandela.
- + Secretary-General addresses high-level panel on African Development in Rome; holds talks with Foreign Ministers of Italy and Tunisia.
- + International Committee of the Red Cross condemns rocket attack on Kabul hospital; reminds Afghan parties of legal obligation to spare civilians and civilian property.
- + World Summit for Social Development to be held on 11 and 12 March 1995 in Copenhagen; to be preceded by meeting of high-level officials.
- + Mandate of United Nations Fish Stocks Conference, to be held in July, is to resolve festering problems of high seas fishing, says Chairman of new Conference, as it begins five-day organizational session.

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Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen have welcomed the Security Council's decision on Saturday night to impose stronger sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). unless the Bosnian Serbs sign the peace plan and end hostilities in eastern Bosnia, according to Fred Eckhard, their spokesman.

(more)

The Council, acting under the enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter, set next Monday as a deadline for compliance with its demands. Thirteen members of the Council voted in favour of the resolution, with the Russian Federation and China abstaining. The tightened sanctions regime would prevent diversion to that country of commodities and products, by land and sea, and freeze all its funds held in other Member States.

Meanwhile, Mr. Eckhard said the two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, had been concerned at reports of fighting between Muslim and Bosnian Croat troops yesterday. However, President Izetbegovic and the Bosnian Croat leader, Mate Boban, had agreed to a cease-fire and there were indications that fighting had calmed down as of yesterday.

Also, a number of speakers taking part in the Security Council's open debate this afternoon on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, have deplored the military actions undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Bosnian Serb side and have stressed the necessity of taking steps to put an end to the current situation there.

The decision to hold the debate, which is expected to last for two days and is open to participation by all Member States, was announced by the Council President Jamsheed K.A. Marker (Pakistan) last on Thursday. The meeting was initially requested by the members of the Non-Aligned caucus in the Security Council - namely Cape Verde, Djibouti, Morocco, Pakistan and Venezuela.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is seriously concerned about the inflexible response of Haiti's military authorities to the United Nations plan to solve the crisis in the country, according to a statement issued today at Headquarters. The plan was presented to the military last week by Dante Caputo, Special Envoy for Haiti, who then reported to the Secretary-General on the Haitian reaction to the plan.

The negative response raised doubts about the willingness of Haiti's de facto authorities to move forward in the search for a political solution to the crisis, the Secretary-General said. He stressed that he was unwilling to engage in dilatory tactics.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday in Rome with Chief Mangosutu Gatsha Buthelezi, President of the Inkatha Freedom Party, who expressed his concerns regarding the situation in South Africa, according to a statement issued by a spokesman for the Secretary-General. Lucas M. Mangope, President of the Christian Democratic Party of Bophuthatswana, also participated in the meeting.

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Discussion touched on events following the murder of Chris Hani, Secretary-General of the South African Communist Party and senior official in the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, and on developments relating to the National Peace Accord, the statement said. Chief Buthelezi expressed his appreciation for the role of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA).

The Secretary-General appealed once again for an early meeting between Chief Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela, President of the ANC, and expressed the hope that South Africa's problems would be settled through broad-based dialogue.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in comments made to the press on Saturday in Rome, said the United Nations was monitoring the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina closely and "would do everything" to find a rapid solution.

He made the remarks following a meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo at which they discussed the current world problems, including the situation in Cambodia and Libya. Mr. Boutros-Ghali thanked the Italian Government for its contribution not only to peace-keeping forces in Somalia and in Mozambique, but also to the police force in Cambodia.

Earlier that day, the Secretary-General opened the Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development, held at the World Food Programme (WFP) Headquarters on 17 and 18 April. He then met with the Foreign Minister of Tunisia, Habib Ben Yahia, for a discussion of the Palestinian question, Libya, Bosnia and Herzegovina and African problems.

Later Saturday, the Secretary-General met with Amos Wako, his Personal Envoy to East Timor, who briefed him on his recent visit to Indonesia and East Timor. The briefing was in preparation for the Secretary-General's meeting with the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal in Rome on 21 April.

The Secretary-General would spend all day today and tomorrow at the meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which will focus on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and programmes of humanitarian assistance, particularly the work of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and Coordination.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has strongly condemned last Friday's rocket attack on the Karte Seh hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, and any other attack on civilians or medical facilities. According to a press release issued by the ICRC, four rockets were fired at the hospital during visiting hours, killing three people and injuring 44.

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Following the attack, the ICRC contacted the parties concerned and reminded them of their obligation under international humanitarian law to spare civilians and civilian property, particularly medical facilities, the statement said.

The ICRC has been working in Kabul since 1988 and supplies two of its five hospitals. The two treat most of the people wounded in the city.

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The World Summit for Social Development will be held on 11 and 12 March 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark, the Preparatory Committee for the Summit decided at the end of its one-week session. The Summit will be preceded by a meeting of representatives of Heads of State and Government or other officials from 6 to 10 March.

The General Assembly decided last year to convene the World Summit and established the Preparatory Committee, which is open to all Member States and members of specialized agencies. The Secretary-General established a Trust Fund for the Summit, which will be used to finance the participation of the least developed countries.

The Summit's core issues are the alleviation of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the promotion of social integration, particularly for disadvantaged groups.

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Resolving the festering problems of high seas fishing in order to implement the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea was the mandate of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the Chairman of the new Conference said this morning as it began its five-day organizational session.

Satya N. Nandan (Fiji) told the Conference, following his election as Chairman, that high seas fisheries could continue to produce maximum sustainable yield if sound management were practised by all States concerned.

Opening the session, Carl-August Fleischhauer, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, called for creative and imaginative approaches in addressing the tasks facing the Conference in order to ensure its success.

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